

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner.

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4 and 10 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hyde-Thomson (US 5,557,659).

Claims 1, 4 and 10 have been amended.

Claim 1, as amended, discloses a method for routing a telephone call which, *inter alia*, includes associating at least one email address with the telephone number being dialed and forwarding the voice message as an email message, via the Internet, to at least one email address which is associated with the number being dialed.

Similarly, claim 4, as amended, discloses a method for forwarding a telephone call which, *inter alia*, includes associating at least one email address with the telephone number being dialed and forwarding the voice message as an email message, via the Internet, to at least one email address which is associated with the number being dialed.

Hyde-Thomson ('659) describes a method for forwarding a telephone call when the caller receives a 'no answer' or 'busy' signal from the recipient's number. Hyde-Thomson ('659) describes a method applicable for use with telephone numbers connected to a PBX and specifically operates when the called number is not picked up.

In contrast to Hyde-Thomson ('659), the present invention allows for a caller to send a voice message to a recipient irrespective even if the recipient's telephone is 'free' to answer the call. The voice message is converted to a voice message which is then sent over the Internet as an email message.

Hyde-Thomson ('659) does not disclose nor suggest a method for forwarding a voice message as an email message via the Internet.

Accordingly, The Examiner's citation falls short on the claimed invention and as such, independent claims 1 and 4 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of the cited art.

Similarly, claims 2-3 and 5-9, which are dependent directly or indirectly from claim 1 or claim 4 are not anticipated for the same reason.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 10-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyde-Thomson ('659) in view of Bobo II (US 6,675,509).

Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome in view of the amendments made above and the remarks that follow.

Claim 10, as amended, discloses a method for forwarding a facsimile which, *inter alia*, includes associating at least one email address with the facsimile number of the recipient and forwarding the facsimile message as an email message, via the Internet, to at least one email address which is associated with the facsimile number of the recipient.

Hyde-Thomson ('659) has been mentioned above and is applicable here. Hyde-Thomson ('659) describes a method for forwarding a telephone call when the caller receives a 'no answer' or 'busy' signal from the recipient's number. As the Examiner states: "Hyde-Thomson ('659) does not teach a method for forwarding a facsimile message" and furthermore Hyde-Thomson ('659) does not disclose nor suggest a method for forwarding a facsimile message as an email message via the Internet.

Bobo II ('509) does not disclose nor suggest a method for forwarding a facsimile message as an email message via the Internet.

Thus, the combination of Hyde-Thomson ('659) and Bobo II ('509) must necessarily be devoid of the required teaching or suggestion of all the elements recited in claims 10-14. Consequently, the combination cannot make Applicants' claims 10-14 obvious.

S/N: 09/830,982

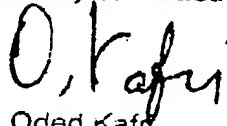
PATENT

Applicant notes the Examiner's citation of prior art to complete the record.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the email address below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the art of record and are now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Once Amended) A method for forwarding a telephone call, [in which the caller receives a "no answer" or "busy" signal,] comprising the steps of:

routing the incoming telephone call to a dedicated server;

identifying the number being dialed;

associating [an] at least one email address with said dialed number;

and

forwarding the voice message as an email message to said [an] at least one email address via the Internet.

4. (Once Amended) A method for forwarding a telephone call in email message format to a recipient, the method comprising the steps of:

the caller dialing a [dedicated] telephone number associated with a dedicated server;

identifying the telephone number of the caller;

the caller entering the telephone number of the recipient of the telephone call;

associating [an] at least one email address with the telephone number of the recipient; and

forwarding the voice message as an email message to said [an] at least one email address via the Internet.

10. (Once Amended) A method for forwarding a facsimile message in email message format to a recipient, the method comprising the steps of:

the caller dialing a [dedicated] facsimile number associated with a dedicated server;

identifying the telephone number of the caller;

the caller entering the facsimile number of the recipient of the facsimile;

associating [an] at least one email address with the facsimile number of the recipient; and

forwarding the facsimile message in email message format to said [an] at least one email address via the Internet.